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Braintree and Bocking Urban District



REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

J. HATTON, M.D., D.P.H.

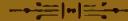
TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT

— OF THE —

Chief Sanitary Inspector

for the

1937



Braintree :

Printed by Chas. Joscelyne, High Street.

BRAINTREE & BOCKING
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor A. B. CLAXTON,	<i>Chairman</i>
„ R. A. PIAGREM	<i>Vice-Chairman</i>
„ F. APPLETON	
„ C. J. BAKER	
„ W. BARROW	
„ G. DAVIDON	
„ A. E. DELPH	<i>(ex-officio)</i>
„ E. V. HOARE	
„ R. C. MABBS	
„ R. MCLEAN	
„ A. F. NICHOLLS	
„ W. SMITH	
„ C. B. SAUNDERS	<i>(ex-officio)</i>

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health:

J. HATTON, M.D., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

S. BARKER

Cert. S.I.E.B. and Cert. S.I.E.B. Meat and other foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

H. BINDER,

Cert. S.I.E.J.B. and Cert. R.S.I. Meat and other foods.

Clerk:

L. EVES.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
ST. PETER'S CLOSE,
BRAINTREE.

June, 1938.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Braintree and Bocking Urban District for the year 1937.

The health of the District has been good and the death rate has remained low.

The inspection of dwelling houses with a view to slum clearance has made satisfactory progress, and during the year Official Representations in respect of 148 houses have been submitted to the Council.

A scheme for remodelling the Braintree Sewage Works has been prepared by the Surveyor and has been approved by the Council.

I wish to thank the Members of the Council for their help and support and the Council's Officers for their valued co-operation during the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. HATTON.

VITAL STATISTICS OF DISTRICT FOR 1937 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	BIRTHS			DEATHS.			NETT		
	Number	Rate	Rate	Number	Rate per 1000 net	Rate	Number	Rate per 1000 net	Rate
1925	7098	115	16.2	18.3	68	10	24	4	34
1926	7149	105	14.6	17.8	66	9	15	2	19
1927	7600	121	15.9	16.7	86	10	28	3	24
1928	8298	153	18.4	16.7	76	14	25	0	0
1929	8568	132	15.4	16.3	86	11	37	12	90
1930	8568	154	17.9	16.3	79	14	26	12	77
1931	8947	137	15.3	15.8	91	14	23	4	29
1932	8940	139	15.7	15.3	87	10	33	10	71
1933	8965	126	14.0	14.4	78	11	25	4	31
1934	14005	141	11.0	14.8	149	49	21	8	56
1935	14080	180	12.7	14.7	219	75	27	13	72
1936	14220	167	11.7	14.8	223	74	20	8	47
1937	14650	213	14.5	14.9*	224	69	16	4	18

Population estimated mid-year

6,911

*Provisional

Natural Increase
(Excess of Births over Deaths)

England and Wales
with P&W

Adjusted on boundary alterations for calculating rates, 1934.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	6811
Estimate of resident population	..	..	..	..	14650
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books	..	..	..	..	4376
Rateable value	..	..	..	..	£80840
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	£314

Social Conditions. There are two iron and steel works in the town, and two textile factories. A considerable number of men and women are employed in these occupations, but no undue influence on the health of the employees has been noted.

Unemployment figures have remained low during 1937.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births	{	Legitimate	TOTAL	M.	F.	{	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	..	14.5
		Illegitimate	207	109	98				
Still Births	..	..	6	4	2	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	..	27.4	
Deaths	..	..	171	101	70	Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population	..	11.6	
Deaths from puerperal causes :—						Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births			
Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	0		..	..	0		
Other Puerperal causes	..	..	0		..	..	0		
		Totals	0		—		0		

Death Rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	18.7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	19.3
Illegitimate „ „ „ illegitimate „	..	..	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	26
„ Measles (all ages)	..	..	nil.
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	1
„ Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	..	..	1

AGES AT DEATH

Net Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District

All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and upwards
171	4	1	3	2	1	19	43	98

INFANTILE DEATHS.

Causes of Death			Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Diarrhoea .. .. .. ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Pneumonia .. .. .. ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation			1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2
TOTALS			1	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	4

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General, and the classification is given according to the cause of death

Cause of Death	Males	Females
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	..	..
Measles	..	..
Scarlet fever	..	..
Whooping cough	..	1
Diphtheria	..	..
Influenza	..	1
Encephalitis lethargica	..	..
Cerebro-spinal fever	..	..
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	..	2
Other tuberculous diseases	..	..
Syphilis	..	..
General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	..	..
Cancer, malignant disease	15	11
Diabetes	3	..
Cerebral haemorrhage, &c.	11	9
Heart disease	20	16
Aneurysm	1	..
Other circulatory diseases	9	5
Bronchitis	2	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	8	4
Other respiratory diseases	..	2
Peptic ulcer	..	..
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	1	..
Appendicitis	2	3
Cirrhosis of liver	..	..
Other diseases of liver, &c.	..	1
Other digestive diseases	1	3
Acute and chronic nephritis	6	..
Puerperal sepsis	—	..
Other puerperal causes	—	..
Congenital debility, premature birth, malformation, &c.	2	..
Senility	4	7
Suicide	..	..
Other violence	1	1
Other defined diseases	5	3
Causes ill-defined or unknown	..	..
Totals	101	70
		171

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health—also acts as Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Witham, the Rural Districts of Braintree and Dunmow and as Assistant Medical Officer to the Essex County Council.

For complete list of Public Health Officers,

See page 1.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The laboratory service is provided by the County Council and is carried out by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, London. The following figures indicate the use made of this service by the medical practitioners of the district

Specimen	No. Examined
Diphtheria	58
Sputa	91
Typhoid	9
Ringworm	2
Miscellaneous	46
TOTAL	206

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

A Motor Ambulance is provided at the Courtauld General Hospital for non-infectious cases, and there is also a Motor Ambulance at the Braintree Isolation Hospital for infectious cases. The existing ambulance services are adequate for the needs of the area and co-ordination of ambulance services in this part of the County has been secured by a reciprocal arrangement between the various ambulance authorities in Braintree and the surrounding districts.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

This Service is undertaken by the Essex County Nursing Association and is very satisfactory.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

These are provided by the Essex County Council. During 1937 a new Combined Treatment Centre was opened at Coggeshall Road, Braintree. The following revised list gives details of present arrangements.

CHILD WELFARE	Each Month
Treatment Centre	1st and 4th Monday
Coggeshall Road	Tuesday (except 5th)
Village Hall, Church Street, Bocking	2nd and 4th Thursday
	2.30 p.m.

ANTE-NATAL.

Treatment Centre, Coggeshall Road 1st and 3rd Wednesday 2 p.m.

WOMEN'S WELFARE.

Treatment Centre, Coggeshall Road 1st and 3rd Wednesday 2 p.m.

MINOR AILMENTS.

Treatment Centre, Coggeshall Road Tuesday 10 a.m.

EYE CLINIC.

Treatment Centre, Coggeshall Road Monday .. 10 a.m.

DENTAL CLINIC.

Treatment Centre, Coggeshall Road 2nd and 4th Thursday 10 a.m.

ORTHOPÆDIC CLINIC.

Treatment Centre, Coggeshall Road Wednesday .. 2 p.m.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.

Treatment Centre, Coggeshall Road Wednesday .. 11 30 a.m.

MENTAL TREATMENT.

Chelmsford General Hospital London Road .. Wednesday .. 2.30 pm.

Colchester General Hospital Lexden Road .. Monday .. 3 p.m.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Chelmsford General Hospital London Road .. Friday 11 a.m (males and females)

Colchester General Hospital Lexden Road .. Monday 6 p.m. (males)

Wednesday 4 p.m. (females)
5.30 p.m. (males)

Friday 2 p.m. (females)
4 p.m. (males)

HOSPITALS.**Voluntary.**

General. The William Julien Courtauld Hospital, Braintree is a modern General Hospital of 25 beds.

Maternity. A new Maternity hospital of 10 beds is under construction on a site adjoining the William Julien Courtauld Hospital.

Public.

Isolation Hospital The Braintree Isolation Hospital provides accommodation for 28 patients. A scheme prepared by the Essex County Council under Section 63 of the Local Government Act, 1929, is still under consideration. The object of this scheme is to centralise the work of existing Isolation Hospitals in larger and more up-to-date institutions. It is proposed to provide a modern Isolation Hospital at Braintree to serve the Braintree, Dunmow, Halstead and Saffron Walden Districts.

At present the Medical Officer of Health has no official status at the Braintree Isolation Hospital, although he is responsible for the adminis-

sion of patients there. This is an anomaly which should be corrected as it is important that the Medical Officer of Health should be in direct control of the Isolation Hospital.

Smallpox Hospital. The Essex County Council Scheme under Section 63 of the Local Government Act, 1929, for the provision of accommodation for the treatment of smallpox occurring in the administrative County is now in operation. The County Council, in collaboration with the Corporation of Colchester have provided a new Small-pox Hospital at Mile End, Colchester. This was completed ready for reception of patients in May, 1936. Cases of smallpox occurring in this District will be removed to this Hospital for treatment and the expenses of the County Council in this connection will be defrayed as special expenses of the part of the administrative county concerned. The scheme also provides for the services of consultant medical officers if assistance is required in the diagnosis of doubtful cases of smallpox but does not alter in any way the normal duties of a Local Sanitary Authority in the event of outbreaks of smallpox.

P.A.C. Hospital The hospital wards of the Public Assistance Institution, Braintree have been enlarged. They now provide accommodation for 120 patients. This institution is under the control of the Essex County Council.

Maternity. The maternity block attached to the Chelmsford Institution is available for cases from Braintree.

MORTUARIES.

A new mortuary and post mortem room was completed during 1937 at the Braintree P.A.C. Institution.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

The following were adopted and came into force during 1937.

“Byelaws for the improvement of Housing Conditions.”

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

The Council's waterworks at Notley Road, Braintree, and King's Bridge, Bocking, yielded an adequate supply of water for the needs of the District during 1937.

The Council's well at Kings Bridge, Bocking, has not been used to any extent during 1937 and supplies for the whole Urban district have been pumped from the Notley Road Waterworks as was the case during the latter part of 1936.

The rest level of the well at Notley Road Waterworks fell 6ft. during 1937.

During 1937 the water mains in the Urban District were extended by 3507 yards and 195 new connections to the mains were made.

The amount of water pumped from both waterworks gave an average consumption of 27 gallons per head per day of the population of the district.

The public water supply of the district is controlled by chemical and bacteriological examination. Samples are submitted for analysis at least twice in each year.

A sample of water taken on 14/12/37 from the Notley Road Waterworks supply was examined and reported on by the County Bacteriologist as follows:—

Appearance ..	..	Clear and bright
Colour ..	..	Normal Odour—None
Reaction pH. ..	..	Neutral 8.0
		Free Carbonic Acid .. None
Electric Conductivity at 20°C.	..	1725
Total Solids 180°C.	..	115.0
Chlorine in Chlorides ..	..	40.4
Nitrogen in Nitrates ..	..	Nil Nitrites absent
Hardness—Permanent ..	..	0.0
—Temporary ..	..	13.5
—Total ..	..	13.5
Metals ..	..	absent
Free Ammonia ..	..	0.0720
Albuminoid Ammonia ..	..	0.0004
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ..	..	Nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen ..	..	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F. ..	..	0.025
No. of Bacteria per c.c or ml. on agar in 1 day at 37°C ..	..	1
2 days at 37°C ..	..	2
3 days at 20°C ..	..	0
B. coli absent in ..	..	100 c.c.
B. welchii absent in —	—	—

REPORT: This is a clear and bright water of normal colour and of neutral reaction. The water contains an appreciable, though not excessive amount of saline matter, is of moderate hardness free from metals and of the highest degree of organic and bacterial quality.

It is a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Braintree Sewage Works. Samples of effluent taken during 1937 have again been unsatisfactory. The works are designed to treat 220,000 gallons of sewage per 24 hours. The actual flow during that period is 322,000 gallons. The Council have instructed their Surveyor to prepare a scheme for enlarging and modernising the works.

Bocking Sewage Works. The Bocking Sewage Works has continued to yield a satisfactory effluent. The samples from this works which were analysed were within the standard of the Essex County Council.

During 1937 790 yards of new sewer were laid in the Urban District and 186 new connections were made.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Pollution of the river at Notley Road, Braintree, is taking place. A scheme for the drainage of the Notley Road and Rifle Hill area which will prevent this pollution is under consideration by the Council.

CLOSET ACCOMODATION.

See Report of Sanitary Inspector—page 29.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

There has been no alteration in the arrangements for the collection and disposal of refuse during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

See report of Sanitary Inspector—page 23.

SHOPS.

See Report of Sanitary Inspector—page 25

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

See Report of Sanitary Inspector—page 29

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are two swimming pools in the Urban District, one is owned by the District Council and the other is privately owned.

The Council's Swimming Pool was improved during 1936. Facilities for sun bathing were introduced and new apparatus for the purification of the water was provided. The water is purified by continual circulation through pressure filters after which it is treated with chlorine and ammonia and aerated before being returned to the bath. The condition of the water is controlled by bacteriological examination. A sample examined by the County Bacteriologist on 27/7/37 was reported on as follows:—

REPORT: This is a clear and bright water of normal colour, earthy odour, and faintly alkaline reaction. The water contains an appreciable amount of saline matter, but not such as to render the water objectionable in this respect for bathing purposes.

In addition it is of moderate hardness, free from metals, of satisfactory organic quality, and of a high degree of bacterial purity.

It is a clean water, suitable and safe for swimming bath purposes.

The privately owned swimming pool has a large capacity and is equipped with modern apparatus for purifying the water in use. This is circulated through pressure filters treated with chlorine and ammonia and aerated before being returned to the pool. A sample of water from

the bath was examined and reported on by the County Bacteriologist on 12/8/37 as follows:—

REPORT: This is a faintly opalescent water due to a trace of mineral matter in suspension. It is of normal colour, faint earthy chlorinous odour and of neutral reaction. The water contains no excess of saline matter is free from metal and hard in character.

It contains an appreciable trace of free chlorine and of organic matter in solution.

Bacteriologically the water is of a high degree of purity.

It is clean water suitable and safe for swimming bath purposes.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Houses which are found to be infested with bed bugs are freed from these pests by fumigation with hydrogen cyanide gas where this is practicable. Before removal to Council Houses the belongings of tenants are freed from vermin by fumigation with hydrogen cyanide in the infested houses or in special vans during the course of removal. The work is carried out by Contractors under the supervision of the Council's Sanitary Officers. On completion of the work independent tests are applied by the Council's Sanitary Officers to ensure that the houses or effects are free from dangerous concentrations of the gas.

In an endeavour to educate tenants and to maintain a high standard of cleanliness in houses owned by the District Council arrangements have been made for routine inspections of these houses to be carried out.

The following table gives particulars of the work during the year:

	Council Houses	Other Houses
Number of houses found to be infested	8	0
Number of houses or belongings disinfected	8	0

TOTAL DISINFESTATIONS .. 8

SCHOOLS.

There are seven public elementary and secondary schools in the Urban District. The general conditions, sanitation and water supply are satisfactory.

The school medical service is provided by the County Council and is carried out in Braintree by a full time Medical Officer working in co-operation with the Medical Officer of Health.

Infectious disease was controlled by the exclusion of individual children during 1937. No closure of departments or schools was found to be necessary.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES,

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ..	1	0	
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ..	6	0	
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises) ..	0	0	
Total ..	7	0	0

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness ..	..	..	..
Want of ventilation ..	..	..	..
Overcrowding ..	..	..	..
Want of drainage of floors ..	..	..	..
Other nuisances ..	..	..	..
Sanitary insufficient ..	1	1		
Accommodation unsuitable or defective ..	..	2		
Accommodation not separate for sexes ..	..	..		Nil.
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bake-house (s 101) ..	..	..	Nil.	Nil.
Other offences ..	..	..	Nil.	
Excluding offences relating to out-work and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers Order, 1921).				
Total ..	1	3		

*Including those specified in section 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts

OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES, SECTION, 108 ... NIL.

HOUSING.

The inspection of property with a view to clearance under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 is still proceeding and details of the inspections made in 1937 are given in the tables below.

During the year Official Representations have been made to the Council in respect of a further 147 houses comprising 21 proposed Clearance Areas, and in addition 3 houses have been considered for individual demolition.

At the request of the Minister of Health the Council's five year programme for the clearance of unfit houses has been revised.

It is estimated that by the end of the five year period i.e. December, 1938 Clearance Areas will have been declared in respect of 285 houses, involving the displacement of an estimated population of 799 persons and the subsequent construction of 169 houses for rehousing purposes. In addition it is expected that 45 houses will have been dealt with by individual demolition involving the displacement of 56 persons.

The position at the end of 1937 may be summarised as follows.—

		No. of areas	No. of houses
Clearance Areas declared	...	18	146
Individual houses demolished	...	—	21
made fit	...	—	5
put out of use (undertakings)	...	—	2
no further action required	...	—	8
TOTALS		18	182

The estimated population of the 146 houses included in Clearance Areas is 380 persons.

A public inquiry was held during the year and subsequently two compulsory purchase orders and six clearance orders were confirmed by the Minister of Health. In all, 98 dwelling houses and two shops were dealt with in this group of areas. Confirmation of one clearance order, in respect of 6 dwelling houses, has not yet been received.

The new Housing (Financial Provisions) Bill reduces the subsidy payable on houses which will be completed after December 31st, 1938. This will increase the difficulty which the Council have experienced already in rehousing persons from unfit houses at rents which they can afford to pay.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	..	..	..	223
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	..			223

(2) (a) Number of Dwelling Houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated regulations, 1925.	176
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	176
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	150
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..	62
2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	15
3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :	
A.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 AND 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..	4
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice.	
(a) By Owners	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ..	0
B.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..	5
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ..	0
C.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 AND 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	5
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	11
D.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made ..	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..	0

(HOUSING ACT, 1936 (PART IV) (OVERCROWDING).

(a) i. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ..	25
ii. Number of families dwelling therein ..	26
iii. Number of persons dwelling therein ..	202
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ..	1
(c) i. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ..	3
ii. Number of persons concerned in such cases ..	8
(d) Number of cases in which dwelling houses again became overcrowded after the Local Authority had taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ..	0

NEW HOUSES ERECTED :

1. Private Enterprise	174
2. Urban District Council	18
3. Other Public Bodies	0
TOTAL	<u>192</u>

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply. The premises concerned in the production or sale of milk are inspected regularly and samples are taken for bacteriological and biological examination.

The consumption of milk has increased of recent years but at $\frac{2}{5}$ pint per head daily it is still too low in this country. An all round increase to about 1 pint daily is very desirable and will result in improved national and individual health and fitness.

The nutritive value of milk cannot be stressed too often, milk is unique among foods and is of especial value to growing children. It is more than a food in the ordinary sense as it contains important body building and protective elements. In virtue of these, milk promotes growth and health and protects those who drink it from disease. Milk must, however, be safe, that is, it must be free from active bacterial infection which may cause disease in human beings.

The public cannot enjoy the maximum benefits of milk drinking until all milk which is consumed is safe. At the present time this is not the case and illness can result from the drinking of unsafe milk.

The problem can be solved by one of two methods.

1. Providing a safe supply at the source and thereafter protecting it from contamination. The difficulties of providing a universally safe raw milk supply are enormous and for economic reasons alone it is impracticable to do so now. The official machinery for improving milk at the

source is continuously at work and has produced excellent results but at present Tuberculin Tested milk is the only milk which can be recommended for consumption without treatment.

2. Treatment which will ensure that all milk is safe before it is consumed. Treatment can be applied to supplies either by pasteurisation or by boiling. Pasteurisation is largely practised on a commercial scale and when efficiently carried out renders milk safe and does not lower its value to any material extent. Boiling on the other hand does modify the nutritive value of milk but should be resorted to whenever supplies of Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised milk cannot be obtained.

Meat and other Foods. Routine inspection of meat, slaughter houses, shops and places where food is prepared is carried out by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors. Details of this work are given in the Sanitary's Inspectors' Report on pages 26 to 28.

There are 11 private slaughter-houses in the Urban District most of which are small. During 1937 96 2% of the animals slaughtered for human food were inspected. The figure is a high one in the circumstances and is very satisfactory. The work, however, makes heavy demands on the ordinary time of the Sanitary Inspectors as well as on Sundays and outside normal office hours. It is estimated that this service costs £200 annually.

The provision of a central abattoir under the Council's control and the closing of private slaughter-houses in the District would simplify the work of meat inspection. Supervision of the work in a number of private slaughter houses is never as satisfactory as it is in a central abattoir and there are few civilised countries in which this system of private slaughter houses is still allowed. Some modifications of the existing law on this subject appears however to be necessary before the abolition of private slaughter-houses can be general. The cost, including the cost of compensation, which is involved at present is heavy.

Adulteration. Action taken under the Food and Drugs (adulteration) Act 1928, the Artificial Cream Act, 1929, the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927, the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1925 to 1927, and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations, 1923 to 1927.

This work is undertaken by the County Council.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food. This work is carried out by the Essex County Council and the samples submitted are examined by Dr. Dyer, the County Analyst.

Nutrition. Information on this subject is given at the schools, clinics and welfare centres in the District.

Shell Fish There are no shell fish beds or layings in the Urban District.

Shell fish which are marketed in the town are obtained mainly from layings on the Essex Coast.

NATIONAL HEALTH CAMPAIGN

During the last three months of the year, active propaganda with regard to physical fitness and the health services has been carried on. Posters have been exhibited, cards and bills have been displayed in schools, halls, clinics and places of public resort. Pamphlets and other literature have been distributed. A considerable amount of public interest has been aroused already and it is proposed to continue the campaign during the early months of 1938. A Health Week has been arranged in Braintree at the end of January, 1938.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

Proposals have been submitted to the District Council for providing casualty services in the event of air attack. These include First Aid and Cleansing posts, Auxiliary Ambulances, First Aid Parties, decontamination of clothing and storage of respirators. The St. John's Ambulance Brigade have undertaken the training of voluntary personnel required to man most of these services. The schemes on paper are well advanced but are not effective at present owing to lack of trained personnel. Numbers of volunteers have come forward for the work but several hundreds more are needed at least.

The main objects of Air Raid Precautions are to avoid panic and prevent the casualties which might arise as a result of lack of knowledge and training on the part of the civil population. It has been stated that one person in thirty should be trained in the work but it would be better to regard each family as the unit and arrange for the training of one member of it so that each household could be to some extent independent of outside help and advice in an emergency.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Seventeen cases of infectious disease (other than tuberculosis) were notified during the year. Details of these are given in the adjoining table. There have been no cases of meningococcal meningitis. One case of diphtheria was notified, which was promptly removed to the Isolation Hospital and treated with diphtheria antitoxin. This case of diphtheria was of the mild or intermediate type and recovered. No cases of diphtheria gravis were seen during 1937.

The incidence of scarlet fever was lower than it was in 1936. The disease generally was mild in type and serious complications were rare. While the present mild form of the disease is prevalent, "missed cases" that is cases where the infection is unrecognised, inevitably arise and these patients acting as intermediaries or carriers may spread the disease, possibly in more severe form to others. For this reason removal of all notified cases of scarlet fever to the Isolation Hospital proves to be less effective than might be expected in checking the spread of scarlet fever infection.

As far as possible cases of scarlet fever should be isolated at home and the admission of cases to the Isolation Hospital should be limited to those which would generally fall into the following categories :—

Insufficient or unsuitable accommodation at home for isolation and treatment.

Severe type of illness or complications necessitating hospital treatment.

Lack of nursing facilities at home owing to illness of parents or other causes.

Occurrence of a case in a house adjoining business or public premises and particularly those where milk is produced or handled.

Cases where the head of the home would lose wages if nursing at home were insisted on.

One case of puerperal pyrexia was notified in 1937.

No cases of dysentery or malaria occurred in the Urban District during the year. 7 cases of pneumonia, were notified none of which presented any unusual features.

The Braintree Isolation Hospital Authorities are unable to admit cases of measles and whooping cough as a routine owing to limited accommodation. Shortening the period of stay in hospital of uncomplicated cases of scarlet fever and careful selection of the cases admitted might, however even at present improve the position in favour of these measles and whooping cough cases. It is important therefore that the New Isolation Hospital which is planned under Section 63 of the Local Government Act shall include adequate provision for the treatment of cases of measles and whooping cough when it is necessary. The mortality from these diseases and their complications is unfortunately more serious than is generally recognised.

Intimation of illness and disease are received from the schools and acting on this information the exclusion of individual children or the closure of schools or school departments is arranged by the Medical Officer of Health when necessary.

Measles, chicken pox, whooping cough and influenza were prevalent in the Urban District during the early part of the year. No closure of schools or school departments was found to be necessary.

No action has been taken at special clinics in the District to provide artificial immunisation against diphtheria and none has been taken in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action has been taken by the District Council under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925 for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes. This work is undertaken in the District by the Essex County Council.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1937.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	At all Ages	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED										TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS	
		Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	
CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL	17	1	..	1	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet fever	..	7	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia	..	7	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	12
Quintuple Pyrexia	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhoid Fever	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
 Totals	17	1	..	1	..	1	5	..	1	3	12

TUBERCULOSIS

No action has been taken during 1937 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade or under Section 62 of the public Health Act, 1925, relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis. Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1937 will be found below.

Age-Periods (Years)	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 to 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 „ 5	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
5 „ 10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10 „ 15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15 „ 20	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
20 „ 25	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
25 „ 35	6	2	..	..	1	1	..	..
35 „ 45	1	..	..	..	2	..	1	..
45 „ 55	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
55 „ 65	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
65 and upward	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..
TOTALS	9	4	2	1	4	2	2	..
			16				8	

The percentage of deaths of un-notified cases is 37.5.

ANNUAL REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

The Chairman and Members of the
Braintree and Bocking Urban District. Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting for your consideration my second annual report upon the work of the Sanitary Inspector's Department.

TABLE 1. INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

A.—TOTAL INSPECTIONS.

Dwelling Houses inspected (housing defects)	..	..	223
General Inspections (Public Health Acts)	..	..	535
Re-inspections (including interviews with owners, etc.)	..	..	1144
Slaughterhouses, Butchers' Shops, etc.	..	..	1691
Other controlled premises inspected (Table 1)	..	..	47
Visits re Infectious Diseases and Disinfection	..	..	16
Miscellaneous Inspections	..	..	180
Visits by temporary Inspectors re Overcrowding	..	..	1049
Total Inspections			4845

B.—INSPECTIONS UNDER HOUSING ACT, 1936 (Part IV.—Overcrowding).

The Form "B" measurement survey to ascertain permitted numbers was completed on 27th February, 1937. The following figures relate to the period January 1st to February 27th, 1937.

Number of houses measured by temporary Overcrowding Inspectors	..	..	..	..	767
Number of visits made for this purpose	..	..	..	..	1049

C.—INSPECTION, ETC., OF CONTROLLED PREMISES

Regulated Buildings, trades, etc.	No. in District	No. inspected	Total No of inspections	Notices served	Notices complied with	Legal Proceedings
Common Lodging Houses	2	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Bakehouses	..	17	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cowsheds	..	18	15	27	3	Nil
Other Dairies & Milkshops	8	4	17	Nil	Nil	Nil
Slaughterhouses	..	11	11	1513	Nil	Nil
Kinckers' Yards	..	1	1	6	Nil	Nil
Offensive Trades	..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

TABLE II. ACTION TAKEN.

A.—COMPLAINTS RECEIVED, NOTICES SERVED, ETC.

Complaints received	..	..	..	..	151
—confirmed	..	..	..	..	96
Informal Notices served	..	..	..	..	175
—abated	..	..	..	..	136
—in hand	..	..	..	..	59
Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	..	42
—abated	..	..	..	..	28
—in hand	..	..	..	..	17
Legal proceedings	..	..	..	..	Nil.

B.—DEFECTS REMEDIED.

Drainage and Sanitary Arrangements.

Waterclosets provided	..	..	..	..	11
,, and Urinals repaired	..	..	..	..	3
,, new pans and traps provided	..	..	..	..	5
,, flushing cisterns provided	..	..	..	..	6
Urinals cleansed	..	..	..	..	1
Drains relaid or repaired	..	..	..	..	8
,, cleansed of obstructions	..	..	..	..	12
,, provided	..	..	..	..	2
Cesspool emptied	..	..	..	..	1
Gully traps provided	..	..	..	..	22
Inspection chambers provided	..	..	..	..	9
,, chamber covers provided	..	..	..	..	1
Ventilation pipes provided	..	..	..	..	4
Dustbins provided	..	..	..	..	179

Dwelling Houses, Etc.

Roofs and gutterings repaired	..	..	..	..	9
Chimney stacks repaired	..	..	..	..	2
Yard pavings provided or repaired	..	..	..	..	5
Dampness remedied	..	..	..	..	1
Walls and ceilings repaired	..	..	..	..	10
Windows provided or improved	..	..	..	..	5
Floors relaid, etc.	..	..	..	..	6
Staircases repaired	..	..	..	..	1
Cleansing and redecoration	..	..	..	..	1
Cooking ranges repaired or replaced	..	..	..	..	2
Food storage provided	..	..	..	..	1
Washing coppers provided	..	..	..	..	1
Sinks provided	..	..	..	..	1
Waste pipes repaired	..	..	..	..	2
Overcrowding abated	..	..	..	..	2
Houses demolished	..	..	..	..	12
Vans and sheds removed, etc.	..	..	..	..	5

Keeping of Animals, Etc.

Offences abated	..	..	..	..	2
Accumulations removed	..	..	..	..	4
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	9
				Total	344

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

During the year contraventions of the Act have been discovered at six premises. In one instance arrangements for heating were improved and a ventilated lobby provided to a water closet after verbal intimation. Four of the remaining contraventions which are in respect of sanitary accommodation, are under consideration by the Council, and in two instances applications for certificates of exemption have been made. The remaining case was in respect of heating and the service of a statutory notice is under consideration.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Number of cowsheds on register	...	...	18
„ dairies	...	...	8
„ wholesale traders and producers on register	...	...	18
„ retail purveyors on register	...	...	25
Estimated dairy cow population	...	...	384

(i) MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

Licenses under the Order were issued during the year as follows:

Tuberculin Tested	—License to bottle	...	1
	—Dealers' Licenses	...	2
Pastuerised Milk	—Dealer's License	...	1

(ii) MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1936.

One additional cowshed at registered premises has been constructed and the conversion of an existing building and the extension of an existing registered cowshed is under consideration. In one instance the sale of milk was found to be carried on at unregistered and unsuitable premises and action under Section 2 of the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, has resulted in its discontinuance.

Before granting licenses under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, the Essex County Council now request the District Council to inform them whether they are satisfied that the premises comply with the Milk and Dairies Order, and this step will greatly assist the Council in obtaining the necessary improvement of existing cowsheds.

(iii) BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

Owing to the pressure of housing work the amount of time available for inspections of cowsheds and dairies and for sampling has been limited. During the year eight samples were submitted for bacterial and coli counts, under the Essex County Laboratory service. The Bacteriologist's reports upon the samples are set out in the following table.

TABLE III. BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

No.	Grade of Milk		Bacteria per c.c.	Coli absent	Report	Remarks
15.	Ordinary	..	6800	0.01 c.c.	Satisfactory ..	Sampled on production at cowshed
16.	Ordinary	..	4600	0.01 c.c.	„	„
17.	Ordinary	..	4000	0.01 c.c.	„	„
18.	Ordinary	..	3300	0.01 c.c.	„	„
21.	Ordinary	..	210000	0.001 c.c.	Unsatisfactory ..	„
22.	Ordinary	..	42000	0.01 c.c.	Satisfactory ..	„
			Methylen blue test	Positive Coli		
19.	Accredited	..	Unsatisfactory	0.01 m.l.	Below Standard	Sampled on production at Cowshed
20.	Accredited	..	„	0.01 m.l.	„	„

In all cases of unsatisfactory reports the farmers concerned are notified and an improvement in the methods of production is asked for.

(iv.) BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION FOR TUBERCLE BACILLI.

All the above samples were, in addition, submitted to the biological test for tubercle bacilli.

In each case the pathologist reported that the guinea pig inoculated had been killed and that no lesions of the disease had been found upon post mortem examination.

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION.

Number of Slaughterhouses :

Registered	...	9
Licensed	...	2

One licensed slaughterhouse is subject to an annual license and the other to a 20 years' license.

ANTE-MORTEM INSPECTION.

Owing to the amount of killing taking place in the private slaughterhouses at all hours, a large amount of time has to be allocated to post-mortem inspections. Ante-mortem inspection which involves an additional inspection of all animals slaughtered for human food, although desirable, would be practically impossible unless the slaughtering were centralised in a public abattoir.

POST-MORTEM INSPECTION.

TABLE IV. CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	1510	4	182	4072	3790
Number Inspected.. ..	1501	4	157	3942	3595
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole Carcasses Condemned	2	Nil	1	2	4
Carcasses of which some Part or Organ was Condemned	25	Nil	Nil	2	13
Percentage of the Number inspected affected with Disease other than Tuberculosis	1.8	Nil	0.63	0.1	0.47
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole Carcasses Condemned	9	1	2	Nil	31
Carcasses of which some Part or Organ was Condemned	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	226
Percentage of the Number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.86	25	1.27	Nil	7.14

TABLE V. WEIGHTS OF UNSOUND FOOD CONDEMNED

1. HOME-KILLED MEAT.

Cattle (other than cows)	...	7148
Cows	...	500
Calves	...	300
Sheep	...	96
Pigs	...	6060
Chickens	...	110
Offal	...	769 $\frac{1}{2}$
		14983 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

2. IMPORTED MEAT.

Beef	40
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3. OTHER FOODS.

Prawns	6
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Total Weight Destroyed (6.7 tons)	15029 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
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From these tables it will be seen that considerable time has to be allocated to food inspection. Bearing in mind the fact that killing takes place at practically all hours and in scattered private slaughterhouses, it is gratifying to be able report that 96 24% of animals slaughtered for human consumption were inspected. Due to the appointment of additional staff this is a considerable increase on last year's figures.

In all cases the unsound food was surrendered and destroyed without recourse to legal proceedings.

One point of interest is that the percentage figures for pigs affected with Tuberculosis closely resembles last year's figure of 75%. It is possible that owing to the small number of carcasses affected in any one year the other percentage figures may show considerable fluctuation from year to year.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

Two contraventions of the regulations were discovered and reported during the early part of the year. In one case a bovine carcase affected with generalised Tuberculosis, which had been stripped was found hanging in a slaughterhouse. No notification of disease had been given. In the second case the carcase of a pig hanging in a butcher's shop was found to be affected with localised tuberculosis in the head. No notification of presence of disease had been given either by the slaughterman or the butcher. The diseased meat was surrendered and destroyed.

In view of the fact that in each case the contravention was a first offence by the person concerned, the Council directed that warning letters should be sent.

ICE CREAM.

One application was received for registration of premises for the manufacture of Ice Cream. The premises proved to be unsatisfactory and the applicant was not prepared to carry out the necessary alterations.

The total number of persons on the Council's register at the end of the year was as follows:—

Manufacturers and Retailers	...	16
Retailers only ...	...	14
Total	...	30

WATER SUPPLIES.

During the year samples of water used for domestic and dairy purposes were submitted for chemical and/or bacteriological examination as shown in the following table.

TABLE VI. WATER SAMPLES.

No.	Date	Supply	Reason	Result
1	20/9/37	Public Supply	Routine Check Sample	Satisfactory
2	28/9/37	Spring	Dairy Supply	"
3	28/9/37	Spring	Dairy Supply	"
4	28/9/37	Well	Domestic Supply	Unsatisfactory
5	14/12/37	Public Supply	Routine Check Sample	Satisfactory

Samples Nos. 2, 3 and 4 were obtained from premises in the same occupation. Previously samples taken by the County Council had proved unsatisfactory and at the end of the year negotiations for a purer supply were proceeding.

Two unsatisfactory samples reported in the last annual report (Nos 2 and 4) have now been dealt with by an extension of the Council's mains for a distance of over one mile. This extension will also afford an improved supply to several dwelling houses in the locality.

SWIMMING BATHS.

Two swimming baths for public bathing exist in the district, one under private ownership and the other owned by the Urban District Council.

A sample was obtained from each bath and submitted for examination. The result of these examinations is set out on pages 12-13.

DISINFECTION.

During the year 14 dwelling houses were disinfected after cases of infectious disease, tuberculosis, etc.

In addition two hospital wards were disinfected after cases of puerperal fever.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

During the past year three instances of the emission of black smoke have been found. In two cases verbal cautions have been given, and in the third considerable alterations have been carried out in order to abate the nuisance.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

During the year nine pail closets were abolished and water closets provided, eight being due to informal action.

It is estimated that 154 pail closets now exist in the Urban District, and that 60 of these are emptied weekly by the Council's contractor. It is hoped that a considerable number of these closets will be converted when sewer extensions now under consideration are carried out.

SCHOOLS.

Owing to the amount of time devoted to housing work during the past year it has not been possible to make inspections of the schools. No complaints in respect thereto have been received.

VERMIN.

During the year two private dwelling houses have been fumigated, one on two occasions, owing to infestation with fleas. In addition, two dwelling houses owned by the Council were sprayed and fumigated owing to infestation with fleas.

In consequence of the discovery of bug infestation 8 dwelling houses owned by the Council were fumigated with hydrogen cyanide by private contractors. The bedding from 4 of the houses was steam disinfected at the Isolation Hospital and 4 of the families attended at the Public Assistance Institution for personal bathing.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

For National Rat Week a special leaflet was printed and circulated to every house in the district, and in addition the Ministry of Agriculture's film, "Your enemy, the Rat," was shown for three days at a local cinema.

During the past year, advice and warnings have been given on numerous occasions where rat infestation has been found to exist.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

The two lodging houses in the district have been inspected and no contraventions have been found during the year.

CONCLUSION.

Finally Gentlemen, I should like to express my appreciation of the assistance and support received during the year from the Medical Officer of Health and other Officials, and also from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and Council.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. BARKER.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

